



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors
Environmental Quality and Operations
Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, September 11, 2008
9:30 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Brenda Richardson
Paivi Spoon
Beverly Warfield

WASA Staff Present

Leonard Benson, Acting General
Manager/Acting Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Lake called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and requested a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and in this region at the Pentagon..

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Aklile Tesfaye, Manager of Wastewater Treatment, reported on the plant performance for July and August, which was excellent for both months with compliance for all permit parameters. Blue Plains flow for July was 294 MGD, and for August was 266 MGD. Precipitation was below average, at 3.6" for July and 1.3" for August. There was one wet weather event in July and none in August. BNR performance of the plant was good with Total Nitrogen discharged at 6.43 mg/l in July and at 5.43 mg/l in August. The 12-month total of approximately 6,000,000 pounds of nitrogen discharged remains well below the annual goal of 8,467,200 pounds.

Biosolids production averaged 1164 tons per day in July and 1019 tons per day in August. All material was beneficially reused, with the majority going to land application, however a significant portion of the production (430 tons in July and 369 tons in August) is now going to a composting facility.

Mr. Lake pointed out that the monthly report contains new information on energy usage at Blue Plains, and information on the biosolids composting facility that is a new outlet for Blue Plains biosolids.

A Committee member thanked Mr. Tesfaye for his guidance on the tour for WSSC Commissioners that took place Wednesday, September 10th. Mr. Lake also noted that the tour was very informative and he will work with the Board Secretary to arrange a date for a CIP tour for interested Board members.

III. STATUS UPDATE ON AWTP NPDES PERMIT APPEAL/EAB RULING AND APPEAL

Ms. Avis Russell reported that a petition for review was filed on July 15th. No date has been set for a hearing. Mr. Lake suggested that WASA put forward its position on this matter; while he has read news articles by environmental groups on the permit there is nothing out there from WASA's perspective. It would be an advantage to WASA to communicate its position. Talking points have been prepared on this matter for distribution to the Board, and Ms. Russell will check on the status and make sure that the Board receives them. The Committee also recommended that this information is posted on the Authority's website.

Ms. Russell reiterated that it is not a matter of permit compliance; WASA intends to build to the limit of technology. The concern is the fairness of load allocations. A Committee member requested information on WASA's position, for posting on environmental list serves. A Committee member requested that Mr. Batiuk of EPA be scheduled to continue the discussion on benefits to the Bay of more stringent permit limits and WASA's proposed capital program to meet them.

IV. STATUS UPDATE ON LTCP/WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Ms. Russell updated the Committee on recent developments with respect to water quality standards. A meeting was held on September 3rd between WASA staff and Department of Environment (DOE) staff, wherein WASA provided background on the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP), issues related to water quality standards, and the dilemma that WASA is in due to the ruling on the Earth Justice appeal. Options that WASA thought were available to DOE were presented. Timing and the need for WASA to make a decision were discussed. DOE will get back to WASA in 3 to 4 weeks. A Committee member requested a list of attendees at the meeting, which Ms. Russell will supply via e-mail.

V. INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY MANAGER-ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Benson introduced Mr. Ernest Jolly, the recently hired Energy Manager, a position that WASA has been trying to fill for a number of years. Mr. Jolly came forward and presented his anticipated plans and the various aspects of energy usage that he plans on addressing including effective use, cost and purchasing arrangements, regulations, and research. He will work in full cooperation with the operating areas. He intends to develop an energy management strategy and implement an energy management plan.

Mr. Lake advised that WSSC has done an excellent job in this area, and noted that he would like to have their energy manager, Mr. Robert Taylor, address this Committee on what WSSC has achieved.

Committee members voiced their delight in having an energy manager on board, and offered further thoughts such as advancing the concept that wastewater is an asset, beyond the biogas energy that can result from treatment. Biosolids and reclaimed water are assets also.

It was noted that the Finance and Budget Committee will have a presentation on their electrical power procurement strategy this month.

VI. POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR (PI) SEWER ODOR ABATEMENT PROJECT: UPDATE

Mr. Roger Gans, Manager of Planning and Design, updated the Committee on the status of the various components of the PI Sewer Odor Abatement Project. Agreement with the Park Service has been achieved on Maryland and District sites. The next step is a review by the National Capitol Park and Planning Commission. On Virginia sites, architectural issues have been agreed upon and progress is being made on permitting.

Bad news from this year is that the chemical used to reduce hydrogen sulfide was not as effective as the chemical used last year. It is possible in the future to use an alternative chemical, or revert to last year's chemical.

The schedule for the permanent facilities is still on target, with bidding next spring on the MD and DC sites and contracts awarded next November. Fairfax sites will follow on a schedule six months later.

VII. POTOMAC SEWAGE PUMPING STATION-CONSENT DECREE COMPLIANCE: UPDATE

Mr. Benson provided information regarding the status of compliance with the consent decree due to problems experienced in establishing the firm capacity of the Potomac Pumping Station. WASA has advised the Department of Justice and Earth Justice of the inability to certify the station's firm pumping capacity of 460 MGD by September 1st. The motor issue (fire and rebuilding the motor), of which the Committee has been advised previously, has been resolved. The Authority however has not been able to establish a firm rated capacity of 460 MGD in field testing in spite of the pumps having been factory tested and meeting required performance. Currently WASA has several experts looking into the matter, including Alden Labs, Fairbanks Morse Pumps and Camp Dresser & McKee. The problem appears to relate to pump inlet conditions, but the conclusion and remedies have not been fully determined. The Authority has proposed that it can certify performance by May 1, 2009 depending on the determination of the exact cause and required solution. The Authority has maintained that this is a force majeure situation, and will advise this Committee of the status on a monthly basis. The Committee recommended that the Authority communicate with city leaders and the general public about this consent decree compliance issue.

VIII. DERIVATION OF CAPITAL COST ALLOCATIONS (OTHER THAN AWTP)

Mr. Benson reviewed the general process for derivation of capital costs on projects involving facilities or infrastructure that serves multiple users and therefore is funded from several sources. The Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) serves as the first document to be referred to in the determination of cost sharing. Wastewater treatment project costs are shared in proportion to allocated flows. For other capital cost items, engineers determine the peak flow contributions of the various users and propose a cost split accordingly. For special cases such as the Central Operations Facility, other means of allocating rational cost splits are utilized. An example of the procedure and analysis used to determine allocation of costs related to the Rock Creek Pumping Station was distributed. Generally, the Blue Plains Regional Committee serves as the forum for resolving differences of opinion on cost sharing.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were presented by Mr. Benson and submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
WAS-06-012-AA-JW	Goods and Services	First Vehicle Services	Option Year 2	\$1,389,288.00
WAS-06-030-AA-ND	Goods and Services	Allied Barton Security Services	Option Year 2	\$3,751,500.00
050250	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$360,550.00
DCFA 419-WSA	Engineering Services	EMA Services, P.C..	Agreement	\$10,300,000.00
Non-Joint Use				
WAS-06-014-AA-VW	Goods and Services	WACH Utility Services	Contract Modification	\$1,119,975.00
040230	Construction	W.M. Schlosser	Change Order	\$28,804.00
Contract Considered and Action Deferred				
Joint Use				
DCFA 420-WSA	Engineering Services	Greeley and Hansen LLC	Agreement	\$24,990,000.00

Mr. Lake received agreement from the Committee to forward to the full Board all joint-use action items, with one notable exception, the procurement of DCFA 420-WSA for the Long Term Control Plan program manager. Objection to this item arose over the user share information, as this is shown as 100% D.C. funded, with an asterisked explanation that it is anticipated that other users will eventually participate in funding this cost. Additionally, a Committee member proposed that this matter be discussed at the Finance and Budget Committee meeting later this month. The Committee member also asked for a citation from the General Counsel of where the Board derives authority to pay for work that is a function of rainwater. Ms. Manley distributed Ms. Russell's response to a previous e-mail in this matter from the Committee member, who requested that it be shared with all Board members. At this point, Mr. Lake proposed that this action item be forwarded to the full Board, without a recommendation from this Committee, but with a statement of the concerns, for the full Board to resolve as to whether this action item should be approved. Upon objections of a Committee member to that course of action, it was proposed that the Committee engage in a conference call on September 29th at 10:00 a.m. to further discuss this procurement. Ms. Russell requested that if there are further questions along this line, that they be submitted in advance of a meeting.

The Committee, in reference to the two change order action items, expressed a desire for some clarification as to the need for the relatively small change orders in the context of the much larger original contract amounts. The Committee seemed perplexed that these small items could not be or were not accommodated under the original contract. Mr. Benson responded that he will talk to the Committee Chair to determine how to address this matter.

Additionally, the Committee asked that the action item pertaining to the Raw Wastewater Pumping Station 1 upgrade have some clarifying statement or indication that this station is located at Blue Plains.

The District members of the Committee are recommending the Non-Joint Use action item to the full Board for approval.

X. EMERGING ISSUES

None noted

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A Committee member raised a comment regarding the Authority's presentations on the Long Term Control Plan. He felt that the idealized depictions of separate sanitary and storm sewer systems vs. a combined sewer systems did not accurately reflect the situation in the District, where upstream sewer systems are conveyed downstream of the combined sewer area, and thus impacting the performance of the combined area and , affecting overflows.

He suggested that a more explicit and detailed slide be developed and inserted in presentations on the LTCP.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.